

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4296

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 2293

STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV, CU/ARTS; USIA FOR IEU,
IBS; LENINGRAD FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC., 74

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, PERFORMING ARTS, NITTY GRITTY
DIRT BAND, DANCE REVIEWS, VOA ATTACKS GOSKONTSERT

REF: STATE 032133, STATE 031147, STATE 020269

1. ON 15 FEB MEETING, GOSK DEPUTY DIRECTOR J.I. YELISEYEV
REQUESTED DEPT CHECK OSIPOV TOUR DETAILS AND INFORM
KAZATSEVA AND IVANOVA OF BEST FLIGHTS INTO ASPEN ON
6 MARCH AND OUT TO LINCOLN, NEB. ON 7 MARCH, AND WHO
WILL MEET THEM IN ASPEN. SAME INFO SHOULD BE GIVEN
V. SAKOVICH AT SOV EMB, WHO MAY JOIN REVIEW TEAM IN
ASPEN.

2. YELISEYEV REQUESTED DEPT PAY HOTEL COSTS FOR
SOVIET REVIEWERS IN ASPEN SAYING GOSKONTSERT PAYS
INTERNAL EXPENSES FOR US ADVANCE TEAMS. EMBOFF
REFUSED COMMIT DEPT PAY REVIEWERS EXPENSES
CITING NON-PAYMENT BY GOSK OF COSTS OF US
IMPRESSARIOS IN S.U. TO VIEW SOV PAPS. AT YELISEYEV'S
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SPECIFIC REQUEST, EMBOFF AGREED TO SEEK DEPT'S
OPINION ON ISSUE OF ASSUMING ASPEN HOTEL COSTS.
ADVISE.

3. EMB ALSO REQUESTS DEPT INQUIRE WHETHER US
IMPRESSARIOS ASSUMED ANY OF YELISEYEV'S EXPENSES
DURING HIS RECENT VISITS. ALSO INTERESTED IN

KNOWING COST ARRANGEMENTS OF ANY SOVIET ADVANCE
TEAMS WHICH MAY HAVE VISITED THE US.

4. YELISEYEV PROMISED GOSK WOULD SEND REVIEWERS
TO EARLY MARCH PERFORMANCES OF NIKOLAIS, LEWIS
AND TAYLOR AND REQUESTED ADDITIONAL DANCE GROUPS
FOR REVIEW AT THAT TIME.
ANOTHER GO-AROUND ENSUED WITH EMBOFF REQUESTING
THAT SOVIET REVIEWERS BE EMPOWERED TO PASS ON
VARIOUS GENRES, AS AMERICAN IMPRESSARIOS DO WHEN THEY VISIT USSR,
AND YELISEYEV REPLYING THAT ONLY SPECIALISTS ARE QUALIFIED
TO DECIDE.

5. AT THIS POINT, EMBOFF REQUESTED FUTURE
EXTENDED MEETING TO DISCUSS INEQUITIES IN PAG
EXCHANGE, INCLUDING FEES, COSTS, IMPRESARIOS,
TOUR LENGTHS, ACCOMODATIONS, ETC. YELISEYEV, WHO
HAD BEEN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY FORMAL THROUGHOUT
MEETING, ROSE, LEANED ACROSS DESK AND ACCUSED
EMBOFF OF BEING PART OF CONCERTED US GOVERNMENT
ATTACK ON GOSK AND MINCULT. IT WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL,
HE SAID, THAT VOA SLANDEROUS BROADCAST FEB 13 IN
FORM OF INTERVIEW WITH FORMER HUOK EMPLOYEE
SHOULD FALL IN SAME WEEK AS EMBOFF'S REJECTION OF
FAIR REQUEST (PARA 2) AND INNUENDO ABOUT INEQUALITY
IN PROGRAM. YELISEYEV SAID HE HAD SPENT ENTIRE
MORNING AT MINCULT DISCUSSING THE PROPER ANSWER TO
VOA'S UNWARRANTED ATTACK.

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6. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE UNINFORMED OF VOA
INTERVIEW AND HIS COMMENTS RESULT OF WELL-KNOWN
CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN PAG OPERATION. YELISEYEV SEEMED
UNCONVINCED BY EMBOFF'S DENIAL THAT USG IN CONCERTED ATTACK
AGAINST GOSK AND MINCULT. MEETING ENDED COLDLY.

7. EMB REQUESTS ADVANCE INFORMATION BY VOA BY IMMEDIATE
CABLE IN ADVANCE OF CRITICAL INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES
CONCERNING THOSE SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE EMB'S DIRECT
NEGOTIATING COUNTERPARTS (MINCULT, GOSK, ARTISTS UNION, ETC.)
TO ENABLE EMBOFFS TO AVOID FUTURE EMBARRASSING SCENES, SIMILAR
TO ONE DESCRIBED ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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